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Videoconference

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

New York, N.Y.

4 v.

19 Cr. 0338-3 (GHW)

5 MANSUR MOHAMED SURUR,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x

8 February 11, 2021
9 11:07 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. GREGORY H. WOODS,

12 District Judge

13
14 APPEARANCES (via CourtCall platform)

15 AUDREY STRAUSS

16 United States Attorney for the
17 Southern District of New York

BY: JARROD LEE SCHAEFFER

17 Assistant United States Attorney

18 ALAIN VERNAUID MASSENA

19 Attorney for Defendant

20 - also present -

21 Marwan Abdel Rahman, Arabic Language Interpreter

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(Videoconference initiated)

THE COURT: This is Judge Woods.

Is the court reporter on the line?

THE REPORTER: Yes, your Honor. This is Vincent Bologna, Southern District Reporters.

THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

Let me just hear if each of the lawyers is on the line for the Surur case.

First, is counsel for the United States on the line?

MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes, your Honor. Good morning. This is Jarrod Schaeffer.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Is counsel for defendant on the line?

MR. MASSENA: Yes, your Honor. Good morning. This is Alain Massena for Mr. Surur.

THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

And I understand that we have an interpreter on the line for Mr. Surur.

Can I ask you to please identify yourself?

MR. MASSENA: Your Honor, the interpreter may not be on the line just yet. We're getting him the link. He is speaking to my client via phone and we're working to get him a CourtCall link.

THE COURT: Thank you. I think I can see your client on the video. Bear with us for just a moment.

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1 MR. MASSENA: The interpreter informed me that he just
2 received the link, your Honor, so he should be joining us
3 shortly.

4 (Pause)

5 OK, your Honor. We're just working out some logistics
6 with the interpreter. He'll be calling in shortly.

7 (Pause)

8 THE COURT: Thank you. So, we're waiting for the
9 interpreter.

10 Is the interpreter on the line?

11 THE INTERPRETER: This is the interpreter.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. So it's about 11:12 a.m. The
13 conference was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

14 Let me begin with a few brief questions for you, the
15 interpreter. First, can I just ask you to please identify
16 yourself?

17 THE INTERPRETER: Marwan Abdel Rahman, Arabic
18 interpreter.

19 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

20 So I would just like to ask a few brief questions
21 about your qualifications to interpret these proceedings.

22 First, at the outset, can you please tell me what your
23 native language is?

24 THE INTERPRETER: Arabic.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. And how did you learn English?

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1 THE INTERPRETER: OK. I started learning English in
2 middle school when I was in Egypt before I came to the United
3 States. And after I came, I went to college. I have a
4 master's degree in education. And I have been interpreting for
5 courts for the last 22 years, including United States District
6 Court. I have interpreted in some of the most high-profile
7 cases this country ever has known.

8 THE COURT: Thank you. Just for the benefit -- sir,
9 let me pause you.

10 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Sir, I'm not engaged in a colloquy with
12 you to establish your credentials. Please do not be offended
13 by the fact that I'm asking these questions. I appreciate that
14 you view yourself as qualified, but I have to ask the questions
15 to establish your credentials. So as I am questioning your
16 credentials, this is an essential part of the process, and I
17 just want to make sure that you understand that as we're
18 engaging in this colloquy.

19 So I understand that you --

20 THE INTERPRETER: No offense taken.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 So I understand that you studied for an undergraduate
23 degree here in the United States. When was that?

24 THE INTERPRETER: That actually was a graduate degree.
25 That was in 1993 to 1997.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Have you undergone any formal training in simultaneous
3 and consecutive interpreting?

4 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, and I have taken the exam by
5 the State of New York, the State of New Jersey, the U.S.
6 district court system and immigration courts.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. Do you have any --

8 THE INTERPRETER: I'm --

9 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Please go ahead.

10 THE INTERPRETER: No, I'm done.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Do you have any interpreting
12 credentials?

13 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. Just like I just stated, I am
14 approved by the U.S. district courts, by New Jersey State, AAC,
15 Administrative Office of the Courts by New York Unified Court
16 System, Pennsylvania, Connecticut immigration courts, and
17 that's what I remember now. There may be others.

18 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

19 So I conclude that you are qualified to certify here.
20 Just as a point of information, the district does not have
21 preapprovals. Instead, each court, that is, each trial judge,
22 is supposed to go through this colloquy with each witness
23 regardless -- or each interpreter regardless of whether or not
24 they've interpreted previously. The federal district court
25 does not have a certification program, unfortunately, for

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1 Arabic. That's the reason why.

2 THE INTERPRETER: But we have a list of approved
3 interpreters, Judge.

4 THE COURT: That is true, sir, and you should ask them
5 whether or not this colloquy is necessary notwithstanding the
6 fact you are on that list, if that is the question that you
7 have. I encourage you to do so.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Sure.

9 THE COURT: Can I ask you, do you solemnly swear to
10 interpret these proceedings truly, fairly, and impartially to
11 the best of your ability, so help you God?

12 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, I do.

13 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

14 So, let's begin. I assume for the interpreter that
15 you have a separate line through which you are connected to
16 Mr. Surur?

17 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. However, I have not been able
18 to interpret the conversation that we just had, your Honor, to
19 him as I was answering your questions, so I don't think he
20 understands what was said so far.

21 THE COURT: That's fine because that was about me
22 understanding your qualifications. We're going to begin the
23 official proceeding now with respect to which I expect that you
24 will be providing simultaneous interpretation services
25 consistent with your experience in these proceedings.

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Are you ready to proceed?

THE INTERPRETER: I am.

THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

So, just for the record, counsel for the United States has appeared here. Counsel for the defendant has also appeared.

THE INTERPRETER: Your Honor, I'm going to have to mute one of the lines so that my simultaneous interpretation does not interfere with the record. I'm going to have to speak into one line and listen to another. So --

THE COURT: Thank you. I think that that would be very prudent. You certainly have my approval to do that, to the extent that that is required.

THE INTERPRETER: OK. So I am muting myself now.

(Pause)

THE COURT: Good. So just for the record, we are providing simultaneous interpretation services for this proceeding for the benefit of Mr. Surur.

Mr. Surur, counsel for the United States has introduced himself for the record. Your counsel has also introduced himself for the record. I've just engaged in a brief colloquy with the interpreter here to ensure that I believe that he is qualified to provide simultaneous interpretation services here. I have concluded that he is qualified to do so.

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1 What I would like to do is to ask you, Mr. Surur, if
2 you are able to hear what the interpreter is saying to you and
3 if you are able to understand what the interpreter is saying to
4 you here?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

7 So I'd like to begin by just saying a few brief words
8 about the way that we're conducting this proceeding today.
9 We're doing this by remote means, by video conference.

10 While we're conducting this proceeding by remote
11 means, this is a public proceeding. So please think of it as
12 if it was happening in court, as if, indeed, it was happening
13 in what we call open court. I say that because any member of
14 the public or press is welcome to audit this conference. I'm
15 not monitoring whether or not members of the public or press
16 are monitoring this proceeding. so, please just keep that in
17 mind.

18 Second, I'd like to ask each of you to please keep
19 your devices on mute, to the extent that you can, during these
20 proceedings just to help avoid unnecessary background noise.

21 Third, for each of you who will be speaking to the
22 Court today, I'd like to ask you to state your name for the
23 record each time that you speak. I ask you to do that to help
24 our court reporter who is transcribing these proceedings. If
25 you do that, he will know who it is that's speaking before you

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1 begin to speak, and he can write down what it is that you say
2 with the appropriate identification information for the person
3 who is speaking. That's not necessary when we conduct a
4 proceeding in open court because the court reporter can see us
5 all, but here, because we're conducting this proceeding by
6 remote means, it's helpful if you each state your name
7 throughout the proceeding.

8 I'm inviting our court reporter to let us know if he
9 has any difficulty hearing or understanding anything that we
10 say here today. So, please don't be surprised if he asks you
11 to speak up or to speak more clearly. If he does ask you to do
12 something that will make it easier for him to do his job, I ask
13 that you do it, to the extent that you can.

14 And, finally, I'm ordering that there be no recording
15 or rebroadcast of all or any portion of today's conference.
16 I'm also ordering that there be no screenshots or screen grabs
17 or other images taken of the video component of today's
18 proceeding.

19 So, counsel and Mr. Surur, thank you for your patience
20 as we got through those introductory remarks. I'd like to turn
21 to a brief discussion of the reasons why it is that we're
22 conducting this proceeding by remote means.

23 As all of you are well aware, unfortunately we are in
24 the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm conducting this remote
25 proceeding pursuant to the authority provided by Section 15002

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1 of the CARES Act and the standing orders issued by our Chief
2 Judge pursuant to that Act. Counsel are appearing before me by
3 video conference. Mr. Surur is also appearing before me by
4 video conference. I understand that each of you can hear me
5 or, in Mr. Surur's case, that you can hear the interpreter and
6 through him can understand what's being said here today.

7 Please let me know if at any point during today's
8 proceedings you have any difficulty hearing or understanding
9 anything that's said here. If for any reason you can't hear
10 the audio, please feel free to wave. I can see all of you
11 clearly on the image, and, similarly, let me know if you have
12 any other difficulty. I'm happy to take any time necessary to
13 ensure that you can all hear and understand what's happening in
14 this proceeding today.

15 So, let me just turn to counsel for defendant for a
16 brief colloquy about the defendant's willingness to proceed
17 with this conference by remote means.

18 It will be helpful for me to hear from you, counsel
19 for defendant, about the reasons -- or I should say about the
20 presentation of the waiver of presence to the defendant. I
21 have received from the defendant a waiver of right to proceed
22 by video conference. That document has been signed by counsel
23 for defendant. It appears to have been signed on February 10,
24 2021, at 1:32 p.m.

25 What I would like to do is to ask you, counsel for

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1 defendant, if you advised -- if you were able to speak with
2 your client about this consent, if you had advised him of his
3 right to appear at this hearing, whether he understood that
4 right, and whether he voluntarily gave up that right.

5 So, counsel, can you please describe the circumstances
6 in which this written consent form was presented to the
7 defendant and the circumstances in which discussed it with him?
8 Counsel.

9 MR. MASSENA: Yes, your Honor. Good morning.

10 I had a conversation with my client via phone. The
11 interpreter was present. I spoke to my client about the
12 waiver, his right to be present, and, however, due to COVID
13 restrictions, to facilitate the matter proceeding forward,
14 whether he was interested in waiving his right to be present in
15 court. And my client consented to waive his right to be
16 present in court by speaking through his interpreter.

17 THE COURT: Very good. And, counsel, can I ask, is
18 this your signature on the document that I described earlier?

19 MR. MASSENA: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. And I understand that you were
21 not able to obtain your's client's signature on this document.
22 Can you tell me why not?

23 MR. MASSENA: Yes, your Honor. I was unable to obtain
24 my client's signature on the document due to COVID
25 restrictions, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you. So let me turn, if I can, to
2 you, please, Mr. Surur.

3 Mr. Surur, first, did you hear what your attorney just
4 said to me?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. As he just described, he's
7 provided me with a document that he has signed which states
8 that you consent to participate in this status and scheduling
9 conference by video conferencing. Your lawyer has signed that
10 document on his behalf.

11 Do you have any objections to me signing your name as
12 well to that document, granting your consent to conduct this
13 proceeding by video conference?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No, I have no objection.

15 THE COURT: Thank you. Counsel for defendant, do you
16 know of any reason why I should not sign the defendant's name
17 to this written waiver of his right to be present for this
18 proceeding?

19 MR. MASSENA: No, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

21 So, first, thank you for working with the interpreter
22 and the defendant with respect to this before today's
23 conference. I find on the basis of your proffers, and on the
24 basis of the defendant's acknowledgment here, that the
25 defendant has knowingly consented to conduct this proceeding by

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1 remote means, it was not reasonably possible for you to obtain
2 the written waiver from the defendant after his arraignment,
3 but he has authorized my signature on his behalf and I will do
4 so shortly following this conference.

5 So, counsel, thank you very much for working with me
6 through those preliminary matters. What I'd like to do now is
7 to turn to the substance of today's conference.

8 There are several things that I want to accomplish
9 here. First, I understand that Mr. Surur has already been
10 arraigned with respect to the charges against him in this case,
11 so, my principal goal here is to talk about how this case is
12 going to proceed. In particular, I hope to talk about the
13 evidence that the government has collected so that we
14 understand what that looks like. I want to set a schedule for
15 the government to produce those materials to counsel for
16 Mr. Surur. And I'd like to hear from the government and
17 counsel for the defendant about how you wish to proceed with
18 this case going forward. So, that's my agenda here.

19 With that established, let me turn to counsel for
20 defendant -- sorry, counsel for the United States first.

21 Counsel, we've had the opportunity to discuss this
22 case in the context of conferences with Mr. Surur's
23 codefendants, but it would be helpful I think in this context
24 if I could ask you to please just describe generally the nature
25 of this case and the charges against Mr. Surur.

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1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Certainly, your Honor. This is Jarrod
2 Schaeffer for the United States.

3 This case involves two separate types of offenses.
4 The first is wildlife trafficking and the second is conspiracy
5 to distribute narcotics. Unlike the other defendants in this
6 case, Mr. Surur is the first arrest and extradited defendant
7 who actually faces the additional narcotics charges. There are
8 also several other counts in the complaint, including a
9 conspiracy to commit wildlife trafficking in which Mr. Surur is
10 charged with the other defendants.

11 This case concerns a long-running conspiracy in which
12 the individuals who participated in the wildlife trafficking
13 conspiracy conspired to traffic elephant ivory and rhinoceros
14 horns to the United States. In addition, there are also
15 substantive charges in the indictment that reference specific
16 purchases by undercover operatives of the Fish and Wildlife
17 Service of rhinoceros horns from individuals involved in the
18 conspiracy, including Mr. Surur.

19 As I said, unlike the other defendants, Mr. Surur is
20 also charged in a conspiracy with one of the other defendants,
21 Mr. Ahed, with conspiring to transport heroin to the United
22 States as well.

23 The evidence in this case largely consists of similar
24 evidence with respect to the other defendants involved in the
25 wildlife trafficking conspiracy. That evidence is quite

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1 voluminous, and it includes documents, agent reports, bank
2 records, recordings, both video and audio, as well as a number
3 of other materials. In addition, it includes physical
4 evidence, including rhinoceros horns that were obtained from
5 the individuals involved in the conspiracy. With respect to
6 the narcotics trafficking charges, it also includes recordings,
7 agent reports, laboratory results, and the like.

8 I have already spoken with defense counsel for
9 Mr. Surur about getting that evidence over to Mr. Massena as
10 part of discovery as quickly as possible. Mr. Massena has
11 kindly arranged to send a drive for defense counsel to receive
12 that material to the U.S. Attorney's Office. As soon as we
13 receive that, we plan to load the evidence on that drive.
14 Because of COVID restrictions and because of just technical
15 specifications, that may take some time. So, we would request
16 approximately two to three weeks simply to get the data onto
17 the drive and to get it out to defense counsel to make sure
18 that it is copied over correctly, but that process is underway.
19 We expect to receive the drive shortly, and we expect to begin
20 that procedure immediately upon receipt.

21 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you very much. So I
22 expect that the government will be able to produce the
23 discovery to the defendant in approximately or no less -- no
24 more than three weeks from today.

25 Let me turn to counsel for defendant.

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1 Counsel, given that description of the case and the
2 extent of discovery and the timeline for its production to the
3 defendant, what is your proposal about how we should develop
4 this case going forward? What should I do next in order to
5 help this case proceed from the defendant's perspective?
6 Counsel for defendant?

7 MR. MASSENA: Thank you, Judge.

8 I did send a two-terabyte hard drive to the U.S.
9 Attorney's Office, and hopefully they should be receiving that
10 by tomorrow.

11 Based on the representation that the discovery is
12 voluminous and also based on the fact that Mr. Surur is at an
13 Essex County Jail that, as far as I know, is still under COVID
14 restrictions and I don't know when those restrictions will be
15 lifted, I believe, in terms of being able to review the
16 discovery with my client and to be able to have meaningful and
17 productive conversations with my client regarding the case and
18 any motions that should be filed or may be filed --

19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honor, your Honor, this is the
20 interpreter. I'm sorry to interrupt.

21 Could counsel slow down a bit, please? I have to
22 interpret every word that he says. Thank you.

23 MR. MASSENA: Sure.

24 So -- Judge, you are on mute.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

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1 Counsel, I would like to ask you to slow down just a
2 little bit if that will help our interpreter.

3 Let me just come back briefly to the interpreter. Is
4 there anything that you are concerned that you may not have
5 captured from counsel's prior remarks that I should ask him to
6 repeat?

7 THE INTERPRETER: No, your Honor. Thank you. I think
8 I've been able to capture everything. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much.

10 Counsel for defendant, please proceed.

11 MR. MASSENA: Thank you.

12 So considering the various restrictions in terms of
13 actually being in person with my client and reviewing the
14 discovery and the length of time to receive the discovery, go
15 over the discovery, my understanding that discovery is
16 voluminous, I believe a status conference sometime within the
17 next two months to three months would give counsel a realistic
18 opportunity to review the discovery and have meaningful
19 conversations with his client -- with my client and with the
20 prosecutor.

21 I do have a question for the Court. Has a discovery
22 coordinator been appointed in this particular case, or have
23 counsel for the other defendants requested a discovery
24 coordinator?

25 THE COURT: Thank you. No, they have not.

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1 MR. MASSENA: OK.

2 THE COURT: Good.

3 So let me turn to counsel for the United States.

4 Counsel, I would like to hear your reaction to the defendant's
5 proposal here, if you wouldn't mind, please, also commenting on
6 the date of the next scheduled status conference for
7 Mr. Surur's codefendants and speaking to how the government
8 thinks we might or should align this with the proceedings for
9 Mr. Surur's codefendants.

10 Counsel for the United States, what's your view?

11 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you, your Honor.

12 The government thinks that it likely makes sense to
13 try and join up Mr. Surur with the other defendants. I
14 understand that there has been a delay because of the
15 extradition proceedings in Kenya. However, Mr. Surur, with the
16 exception of the final charge in the indictment, is charged as
17 a member of a conspiracy, and the conspiracy is not large
18 enough, the government believes, to require severance, so it
19 would likely make sense to put those cases on the same track.
20 The current conference scheduled in this case for the remaining
21 defendants is March 15th, 2021. I doubt, based on the size of
22 the discovery and Mr. Massena's comments, that that would be
23 sufficient time to allow him to meaningfully review it with his
24 client.

25 The government's recommendation would be that perhaps

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1 we adjourn that for an additional 30 days to allow Mr. Massena
2 additional time to review. And if it would be helpful to the
3 Court, the government would also be happy to reach out to
4 counsel for the other defendants to determine whether or not
5 they would object to an adjournment to allow the dates to be
6 aligned for all defendants.

7 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you very much.

8 MR. MASSENA: I would say that that's reasonable as
9 well, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Good. Thank you very much. That was
11 Mr. Massena.

12 Good. Bear with me for just a moment, please.

13 (Pause)

14 So then I understand that the proposal is that we
15 schedule a conference for the future. That conference would
16 happen sometime around April 12. I'm happy to do that. My
17 proposal would be to provisionally schedule the conference for
18 Mr. Surur to take place on Monday, April 12, at 9 a.m.

19 Counsel, does that date and time work for each of you?

20 (Pause)

21 MR. SCHAEFFER: With respect to the government, your
22 Honor, if possible, I would request a date the following week
23 only because I'm scheduled to be on trial that week. That
24 said, I'm not the only A.U.S.A. on the case, and we defer to
25 the Court and to defense counsel as to what's most convenient.

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1 So, the government will make it work if that's the date that is
2 most convenient for everyone else.

3 MR. MASSENA: This is Alain Massena for the defense.
4 April 12th is fine for me, your Honor. I am also available
5 April 19th as well.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Good.

7 So I think that I should be able to do it on
8 April 19th, let's say, at 11 a.m. So, counsel, I'll set a
9 schedule for us to conduct the hearing -- the next scheduled
10 hearing for April 19 at 11 a.m.

11 What I would ask, counsel for the United States, is
12 that you please reach out to counsel for Mr. Surur's
13 codefendants. If they're willing to -- or they wish to request
14 an extension of the date for their next scheduled conference,
15 then the government and each of the defendants can request that
16 extension, together with the attached exclusion of time,
17 through the April 19 date that I've just established so that we
18 could have our next conference with all of the defendants
19 joined together.

20 Depending on the facilities where the other defendants
21 are located, it may be that it would be -- it won't be possible
22 to do it on April 19th because different facilities are
23 permitting video conferences and remote conferences on
24 different days of the week. If it is the case that in order
25 for us to align their conferences with this one, we must change

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1 this conference date to a different date, please just let me
2 know that in a letter with the views of each of the defendants'
3 counsel and I will work to set another schedule that will work
4 for all defendants. Please do let me know what the position is
5 of the other codefendants on the exclusion of time, and I will
6 take up any application to adjourn that conference when it
7 comes in in writing.

8 For purposes of this conference, however, I will set
9 another status conference for April 19 at 11 a.m. At that
10 time, my hope is that counsel for defendant will have the
11 opportunity to review the discovery and to begin to consider
12 what motions, if any, may be appropriate here. We will need to
13 begin putting in place a motion schedule and perhaps even a
14 trial schedule, and so I hope that you will be prepared to
15 discuss any motions that you may contemplate and we will set a
16 motion schedule -- a hearing schedule, if necessary, and
17 possibly a trial date.

18 So, counsel, is there anything else that either of you
19 would like to bring to my attention before we turn to the
20 discussion of the speedy trial clock? First, counsel for the
21 United States?

22 MR. SCHAEFFER: No. Thank you, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 Counsel for defendant?

25 MR. MASSENA: No, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Before we turn to the speedy trial clock, I just want
3 to remind the prosecution of its obligations under Brady.

4 I direct the prosecution to comply with its
5 obligations, under Brady v. Maryland and its progeny, to
6 describe to the defense all information, whether admissible or
7 not, that is "favorable to" the defendant "material either to
8 guilt or to punishment," and known to the prosecution.
9 Possible consequences for noncompliance may include dismissal
10 of individual charges or the entire case, exclusion of
11 evidence, and professional discipline or Court sanctions on the
12 attorney responsible. I will be entering a written order more
13 fully describing this obligation and the possible consequences
14 of failing to meet it, and I direct the prosecution to review
15 and comply with that order.

16 Counsel for the United States, does the government
17 confirm that it understands its obligations and will fulfill
18 them?

19 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 I will enter a written order confirming that again at
22 some point shortly following this proceeding.

23 Counsel for the United States, is there an application
24 with respect to the exclusion of time under the Speedy Trial
25 Act?

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1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes, your Honor. The Court -- or the
2 government would ask the Court to exclude time under the Speedy
3 Trial Act between now and the date of the next conference,
4 April 19, 2021, in order to allow the government to assemble
5 and produce discovery to the defendant and to allow his counsel
6 to consult with him to review that discovery and determine
7 what, if any, motions they wish to file.

8 THE COURT: Good. Thank you.

9 Counsel for defendant, do you consent to the exclusion
10 of time?

11 MR. MASSENA: Alain Massena for the defendant. I
12 consent, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 I will exclude time from today until April 19, 2021.
15 After balancing the factors specified in 18 United States Code,
16 Section 3161(h)(7), I find that the ends of justice served by
17 excluding such time outweigh the best interests of the public
18 and the defendant in a speedy trial because it will allow time
19 for the production of discovery and the review of those
20 materials by the defendant, it will allow time for the
21 defendant to consider any potential motions.

22 Very good. Is there anything else that we need to
23 take up before we adjourn this proceeding? First, counsel for
24 the United States?

25 MR. SCHAEFFER: No. Thank you, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Thank you.
2 Counsel for defendant?
3 MR. MASSENA: No, your Honor.
4 THE COURT: Thank you all very much.
5 This proceeding is adjourned.
6 MR. MASSENA: Thank you.
7 (Adjourned)

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